

Congressman Hanna votes to repeal and replace health care bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (R,C,I-NY) this week will vote to repeal and replace the current health care law in order to build a better health care policy for the nation.

“I still maintain that last year’s health care bill was well-intentioned, but ill-conceived,” Hanna said. “These votes will bring us closer to true reform through addressing health insurance costs, quality of care and increased access for all citizens who wish to have health care coverage.”

A repeal vote is scheduled for this evening, followed by a vote Thursday to replace the law.

Hanna explained that he supports replacing the current law to address the affordability of insurance and improve the quality of care patients receive.

Hanna’s top concerns with the current law include:

- **Higher costs:**Families can face an average of \$2,100 in increased health insurance premiums, according to analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.
- **Business impact:**Mandates in the health care law make it harder for small businesses to create jobs.
- **Seniors lose coverage:**Especially troubling for seniors in the 24th Congressional District are the deep cuts to Medicare - \$575 billion, which would force an estimated 7.4 million senior citizens to lose their current Medicare Advantage coverage. Approximately 122,000 residents of the 24th District are Medicare beneficiaries.

“Core components of health care reform have always been affordability and accessibility,” Hanna said. “Those who want insurance should be able to purchase it at a reasonable price, and we can’t cut coverage for our seniors living on fixed incomes.

“Most Americans don’t realize the impact last year’s health care bill has on our federal deficit since cost estimates were based off 10 years of tax increases that would offset only six years of spending,” Hanna added.

Hanna voted to support the following goals for an improved health care bill:

- Foster economic growth and private sector job creation
- Lower premiums through increased competition and choice and preserve the patient’s ability to keep his or her current plan.
- Increase the number of insured Americans, and allow those with pre-existing conditions access to affordable coverage
- Reform the medical liability system to reduce unnecessary and wasteful spending
- Expand incentives to encourage personal responsibility for health care coverage and costs

“Our country has provided the highest standard of living in the world,” Hanna said. “We should be able to offer our citizens access to affordable health care and we will. I look forward to utilizing my seat on the Education and the Workforce Committee to help fix our health care system with targeted, commonsense solutions.”

Hanna this morning delivered this speech on the House Floor:

Mister Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2 so that we may replace the well-intentioned but ill-conceived health care law signed last year with reforms that increase access to care and lower costs.

We know that the current law raises premiums. We know that it cuts Medicare by more than 500 billion dollars. That’s unacceptable for the over 120,000 seniors in my district who rely on Medicare benefits. We know it raises taxes. Imposes costs on small businesses. And will substantially burden New York taxpayers.

Tomorrow I will vote to instruct committees, including the Education and Workforce Committee, to produce thoughtful and improved legislation.

I look forward to supporting reforms that lower premiums through competition; allow folks with pre-existing conditions access to affordable coverage; reform the medical liability system; preserve a patient's ability to keep their plan; and expand incentives to encourage personal responsibility for health care coverage and costs.

Thank you, I yield back.□

To view a video of Hanna's speech, please visit: http://clips.shadowtv.net/media/stv/3343/8/2011/019/11/3343_8_20110119_111105_74.wmv

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